



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Savannah District

Glades Reservoir Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Chapter 5

Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

October 2015



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5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires an evaluation of environmental effects for any federal action and its alternatives. When an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is deemed necessary according to the terms of NEPA, the process includes a detailed environmental analysis, consultation with relevant federal and state agencies, and public involvement obligations. This chapter covers the public involvement efforts that were undertaken as a part of the Glades EIS.

5.1 Public Scoping

The public involvement and scoping process for the Glades Reservoir EIS project was initiated when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Savannah District received the Department of the Army (DA) application for the Glades Reservoir EIS. The EIS was assigned DA Permit Application No. SAS-2007-00388.

The Glades Reservoir EIS Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 2012, which initiated the public scoping process for the proposed project. The public scoping period ended on April 17, 2012. A project website (www.gladesreservoir.com) was developed at the start of the public scoping process to facilitate public involvement efforts throughout the EIS timeline.

5.1.1 Public Scoping Meetings

The Corps held a total of three public scoping meetings in the three states in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin. The dates, locations, and number of attendees of the public scoping meeting are presented in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1 Public Scoping Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Number of Attendees ¹
March 20, 2012	4:00 - 8:00 pm	Gainesville State College, 3820 Mundy Mill Road, Oakwood, GA 30566	59
March 21, 2012	4:00 - 8:00 pm	Lexington Auburn University Convention Center, 1577 South College Street, Auburn, AL 36832	11
March 22, 2012	4:00 - 8:00 pm	Apalachicola National Estuarine, Research Reserve, 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, FL 32328	14

¹Public attendees, not including USACE and consultant staff.

The public scoping meetings were held in open house format with stations presenting aspects of the Applicant's proposed project, the NEPA process, and project purpose and need, among other topics. The Corps and contractor representatives were available at each area to answer questions about the project and the EIS process. The sign-in sheets, handouts, meeting boards and a list of meeting attendees are included in the Scoping Report in **Appendix X**.

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5.1.2 Agency Scoping Coordination Meetings

A series of meetings for the Glades Reservoir EIS were held between stakeholder agencies and Corps during the public scoping period. The dates, locations, and attendees of each of the three agency meetings are presented in **Table 5.2**. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce the project to interested agencies in the ACF basin, including state and federal agencies in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

Table 5.2 Agency Coordination Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Agencies Present
March 20, 2012	9:00 - 10:30 am (EST)	Atlanta, GA	EPA Region 4 Georgia Environmental Protection Division Georgia Environmental Finance Authority Georgia Department of Community Affairs Georgia Department of Natural Resource – Wildlife Resources Division Atlanta Regional Commission/Metro North Georgia Water Planning District
March 21, 2012	10:00 - 11:30 am (CST)	Montgomery, AL	EPA Region 4 Alabama Office of Water Resources Alabama Department of Environmental Management Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
March 23, 2012	10:00 - 11:30 am (EST)	Tallahassee, FL	Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The agency coordination meetings were held as roundtable discussions, and included an overview of the project, overview of the EIS process and the purpose of scoping, and an open conversation regarding agency concerns, information needs, and issues to be addressed in the EIS. The sign-in sheets, handouts, and agenda are included in the Scoping Report in **Appendix X**.

5.1.3 Scoping Comments and Report

The public and the scoping meeting attendees were invited to submit comments about the proposed project through April 17, 2012, the commenting period's official end. In addition to verbal and written comments received during the scoping meetings, comments were submitted to the Corps' Project Manager, Richard Morgan, via the U.S. Postal Service and e-mail. The public also submitted comments via the project website: <http://www.gladesreservoir.com/>

All comments received from the public and agencies in response to the April 2012 Public Notice for the Glades Reservoir EIS during the public scoping commenting period were considered by the Corps during the EIS preparation process. The Final Scoping Report (**Appendix X**) contains a summary of the comments received during the public scoping period and the steps taken to analyze them. All scoping letters, comments and the scoping report have been made available to the public via the project website: <http://www.gladesreservoir.com/scoping-documents>. The Final Scoping Report was released in October 2012, and includes a description of the scoping process, comment analysis, and a summary of

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future actions. The report also contained the scoping and agency meeting handouts, boards, and sign-in sheets.

5.1.4 Legal Notice

The legal notice for the Glades Reservoir EIS Public Scoping Meetings was published in the following newspapers on the dates listed below. **Appendix X** includes copies of the newspaper notices, publication affidavits, and Corps website notice. Photographs from the meeting and post-event publicity are also in **Appendix X**.

- Opelika Auburn News – Auburn, AL (March 6-7, 2012)
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution – Atlanta, GA (March 5-6, 2012)
- Gainesville Times – Gainesville, GA (March 5-6, 2012)
- Apalachicola Times – Apalachicola, FL (March 8, 2012)

5.2 Public Hearing

The Corps plans on conducting one (1) public hearing meeting during the 60-day public commenting period for the Glades Reservoir DEIS.

A 60-day public commenting period is planned once the Notice of Availability for the Glades Reservoir DEIS is published on Federal Register. The comments received during this period and during the public hearing meeting will be summarized in a draft report for consideration in the Final EIS.

5.3 Agency Coordination

5.3.1 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies with jurisdiction by law or technical expertise can participate in the NEPA process in a variety of ways to discuss their concerns, provide review of sections pertaining to their authorities or special expertise, or provide assistance and advice to the Corps. This cooperation promotes agency participation and facilitates the NEPA review process.

The Corps requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) participate in the NEPA process as cooperating agencies (40 CFR 1501.6, 1508.5). Formal cooperating agency agreements have been executed between the Corps and these two agencies. The EPA and EPD advised the Corps in their areas of technical and regulatory expertise. The Georgia EPD has authority over the issuance of State of Georgia permits required prior to the construction of the proposed reservoir or any reservoir alternative, most notably, the State permit to withdraw water and the State's water quality certification authority delegated under Section 401 of the CWA. The Corps held several coordination meetings and workshops with the cooperating agencies; the cooperating agencies provided comments and guidance on preliminary draft during development of this DEIS.

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Depending on EIS activities, the Corps held regular conference calls, on-line meetings, and workshops to provide status update and to obtain feedbacks from the cooperating agencies on various topics during the development of the EIS. For key topics (such as population and demand projections, instream flow protection, and alternative analysis), draft technical memoranda are provided to the cooperating agencies for review. The Corps considered the cooperating agencies' comments during the preparation of the EIS.

5.3.2 Other Agencies

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was invited to be a cooperating agency for this EIS but declined to participate due to resource constraints. While the USFWS declined to be a formal cooperating agency, the Corps initiated informal consultation according to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) during the development of this DEIS. The Corps held several conference calls and meetings to discuss the northern long-ear bat, a species that became listed (May 4, 2015) during the development of this DEIS. In addition, the Corps also held conference calls to discuss the approach for a candidate species and for instream flow protection threshold. The consultation summaries are contained in **Appendix S**.

In addition, the Corps Savannah District (SAS) also coordinated extensively with the Corps Mobile District (SAM) on general EIS approach and hydrological modeling. At the request of SAM, the Hydrological Engineering Center also reviewed the hydrological model for selected alternatives and scenarios for this EIS. SAM reviewed the preliminary modeling results and post-processed modeling results.

5.4 EIS Preparation Team

This EIS was prepared through collaboration between the Applicant, Lead Agency, and a third-party contractor. The sections below describe each of the participant teams and their corresponding roles in the EIS.

5.4.1 Applicant

The Applicant for the Glades Reservoir EIS is Hall County (Applicant). The Applicant is responsible for providing available data needed for the preparation of the EIS and for funding the EIS preparation.

5.4.2 Federal Lead Agency

The Corps is the federal lead agency for the Glades Reservoir EIS. As the lead agency, the Corps is tasked with ensuring that the completion of the EIS process, including the issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD), is compliant with the terms of NEPA and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. The Corps' staff that have contributed to the Glades Reservoir EIS are listed in **Table 5.3**.

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Table 5.3 Corps Project Staff

Name	Education and Discipline	EIS Responsibility
Richard Morgan	BS, Forestry Management, Auburn University	Lead Project Manager
Kathrine Freas	BS, Environmental Sciences, Berry College	Assistant Project Manager
David Crosby	BS, Economic Zoology, Clemson University	Technical Support
Paula Feldmeier	JD, Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law LL.M., Natural Resources & Environmental Law & Policy, University of Denver, Sturm College of Law	Legal Counsel
Dave Crampton	MA, Anthropology, State University of New York, Albany (SUNYA) BA, Anthropology, Binghamton University	Cultural Resources

5.4.3 Third-party Consultant

The Corps retained the services of AECOM as a third-party consultant for the preparation of the EIS. The members of the AECOM project staff team are listed in **Table 5.4**.

Table 5.4 AECOM Project Staff

Name	Education and Discipline	EIS Responsibility
Tai Yi Su	MS, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Duke University BS, Civil Engineering, National Taiwan University	Project manager
Katherine Gurd	BCE, Civil Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology	Assistant project manager; demand forecast; alternatives analysis; impact assessment; soil and geology, land use, water quality
Pamela Burnett*	MS, Water Resources Management, University of Wisconsin BA, Geography, University of Minnesota	Public scoping; water resources; document review
Courtney O'Neill	MS, Civil Engineering, Water Resources Planning, University of Washington, Seattle BS, Biosystems Engineering, Michigan State University	Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; water resources
Stephen Blanton	BS, Civil Engineering, California State University	Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling review
Eric Cole	BS, Civil Engineering, Imperial College, London University	Dam cost estimates review
Doug Yadon	MS, Civil (Geotechnical Engineering), Stanford University BS, General Engineering, Oregon State University BS, Geology, Oregon State University	Review of White Creek dam alignment; geotechnical review
Brandi Helms	BS, Civil Engineering, Colorado State University	Dam engineering and cost estimates
Anne Minihan	JD, University of Georgia School of Law BA, American Studies, Emory University	Literature research and technical writing; public scoping; floodplains; administrative records
Greg Harrison	MS, Environmental Engineering, University of Tennessee BS, Civil Engineering, Tennessee Technological University	Construction sequence and logistics, pump station and pipeline alternatives

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Name	Education and Discipline	EIS Responsibility
Alicia McDougal	MS, Environmental Engineering, University of Central Florida BS, Environmental Engineering, University of Central Florida	Air quality, land use, engineering support, and document preparation
Vineeth Panicker	MS, Environmental Engineering, University of Missouri-Rolla BS, Chemical Engineering, University of Madras	Engineering support, cost estimates; groundwater evaluation
Stephanie Gardner	BS, Civil Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology	Demand forecast modeling; habitat modeling
Chris Covington	BS, Ecology and Sociology, Emory University	Biological resources
Keith Suderman*	PhD, Biological Oceanography, Florida State University MS, Biological Oceanography, Florida State University BA, Chemistry, Bethel College	Biological resources
Andy Lydick*	AA, Fish and Wildlife Management, Haywood Technical Institute	Biological resources
Lindsey Dunnahoo	BS, Civil Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology	PHABSIM (habitat) modeling assistance
Laura Dawood	MS, Conservation Ecology & Sustainable Development, University of Georgia BS, Biology, McGill University	Social-economic resources (environmental justice, recreation, housing, transportation and displacement, and cultural resources)
John Lawrence	MA, Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania; BA, Anthropology, University of Texas	Cultural resources
Allison Rachleff	MA, Historic Preservation Planning, Cornell University BA, Comparative Literature, Smith College	Cultural resources
Scott Brown	Masters in City and Regional Planning (MCRP), Georgia Institute of Technology BA, Historic Preservation and Community Planning, College of Charleston	Aesthetic and visual resources
Sinan Sinharoy	MCRP, City and Regional Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology BS, Mechanical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology	GIS and engineering support; recreation
Christine Bottinik	BS, Environmental Science, Berry College	Roadway and structure displacement
Anna Shoji	BA, Geography, University of Georgia	GIS support
Bruce Meighen*	MCP, City Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology BA, Geography Urban Systems, McGill University Certified Habitat Evaluation Procedures Commerce Degree, Champlain College, Montreal, Quebec	Public involvement plan and scoping
Mandy Phillips	BS, Environmental Science, Auburn University	Noise; air quality review
Rebecca Everette*	MURP (Master of Urban and Regional Planning); Certificate in Environmental Management, Planning, and Law; University of Colorado Denver BS, Natural Resources Recreation & Tourism, Colorado State University	Public scoping
Les Davis	BS, Civil Engineering, Ohio Northern University	Document review/technical editing

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Name	Education and Discipline	EIS Responsibility
Stephen Stelmak	BS, Sociology, University of Houston	Graphic design
Kelly Krenz Doe	MS, Geology (Geophysics), Northern Illinois University BS, Geology, Northern Illinois University	Administrative records support
Nancy Gonce*	MS, Environmental Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology BS, Civil Engineering, Louisiana State University	Cost estimates; water supply infrastructure engineering support
Doug Johnston*		Website support
Drew Parker	BA, Geography, Georgia State University	GIS support
Ben Young	MA, Geography, Ohio University BS, Geography, Ohio University	GIS support
John Power	BA, Geography, Georgia Southern University	GIS support

* Formerly on the Glades EIS team

Additional expertise was provided to the Corps and AECOM to assist in the EIS preparation by subconsultants, which are listed in **Table 5.5**.

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Table 5.5 EIS Subconsultants

Name and Company	Education and Discipline	EIS Responsibility
Blaine Dwyer (HDR)	MS, Water Resource Engineering, University of Colorado BS, Civil Engineering, Colorado State University	Alternatives Analysis and Hydrologic modeling Advisor; Technical Review
Robert Esenwein (Cardno)	PhD ABD, Rice University MA, Rice University MA, Texas Christian University BA, Texas Christian University	NEPA Compliance and Advisor; Document Review
Brian Rochester (Rochester and Associates, Inc.)	BS, Civil Engineering, The Citadel	Public involvement support; local conditions; cost estimates for road/bridge relocation; assistance in historical resources
Bradley Duncel (Rochester and Associates, Inc.)	BS, Civil Engineering Technology, Southern Polytechnic Institute	Local conditions; displacements; cumulative effects; assistance in historical resources
Martin Penny (Rochester and Associates, Inc.)	AS, Land & Engineering Survey Drafting Sydney Technical College	GIS support
Don Kretchmer (DK Water Resources)	MS, Water Resource Management, University of Wisconsin-Madison BS, Natural Resources, Cornell University	Water quality modeling
Regina Lucas (via Rochester and Associates, Inc.)	MA, English Literature, College of William and Mary BA, English, Western Connecticut State University	Technical editing
Brian Watson (Tetra Tech)	Master of Engineering, Civil Engineering, University of Florida BS, Civil Engineering, University of Florida	Water Quality
Michelle Maddaus (Maddaus Water Management)	BS, Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Davis MBA, UC Davis	Demand forecast modeling support
Matt Kirkland (Brand New Box)	BFA, Industrial Design, University of Kansas	Website support